

Yet, applications for technical jobs dropped by almost 50 percent over the last 2 years.

With a potential looming recession for those holding office jobs, many might be disappointed they missed out on learning a high-skilled trade. Fortunately, it isn't too late. Many open technical jobs pay a six-figure salary, and businessowners are struggling to fill them.

If I had to give young people advice today, it would be to consider learning a high-skilled trade.

LOOMING DEBT CEILING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I was very encouraged with today's reports that the Republican leadership is planning to teach their Members about how the debt ceiling works. This is a very good sign, especially after the embarrassing first week with 15 votes to elect a Speaker, and the House leadership ending up exactly where it started. Unfortunately, the leadership is hallowed out, but they have empowered the exact same element or any other faction who want to hold the Speaker hostage.

But there is a key difference going forward. They are playing games with the full faith and credit of the United States, which is underpinning the global economy. Note, the debt ceiling is not just a way station on the way to a full government shutdown. While government shutdowns have real costs and consequences, the debt ceiling has massive ramifications that you cannot unwind.

This game of chicken with the global economy is very much more consequential. You can recover from the shutdown. But the Trump attacks on professionals, for example, drove thousands of people out of government service, and it is going to take years and millions of dollars to repair. These implementations of political slogans have real consequences.

In the end, I suspect we will be right where we started. The only way to reduce the deficit, to balance the budget books, is to actually reduce government spending, which they refused to do in the Trump administration when they were in total control of the government. They instead had a huge increase in the deficit. There were, of course, tax cuts that were a part of that, unfunded, and there was a major spike in military spending.

My friend, Hal Harvey, a leader in climate science, is fond of saying that you can't refute science, math, and economics. That is exactly the situation that my Republican friends are facing with this game of chicken with the debt ceiling.

There is no gimmick, there is no commission, and there is no slogan that avoids the painful truth that you

actually have to reduce spending. There are real things we could do.

I would suggest any Member could avail themselves of a secret weapon that is in each and every one of our districts. There are amazing young people who are involved with civics, with leadership congresses, with the efforts to understand how government works. I think we ought to employ them. They understand the dynamic: Cut spending, raise taxes, or just collect the taxes that are due and owing, which would be hundreds of billions of dollars. Unless and until we do this, all the rest is simply meaningless slogans and posturing, unfortunately with real risks of threatening the full faith and credit of the United States.

My friends have no alternative to the borrowing, and I am afraid that we are going to end up going through this meaningless exercise, agitating ourselves, confusing the public, and losing an opportunity to make real progress, improving the budgeting process, and making the tax system more effective to just collect the taxes that are already due and owing, which we are ignoring.

I strongly encourage the process that my Republican friends are involved with in terms of educating Members about the impacts of the debt ceiling, and I hope that we are able to come together to deal with the realities of what that implies.

RECOGNIZING STATE-OF-THE-ART UGA POULTRY SCIENCE BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the creation of a state-of-the-art poultry science building at my alma mater, the University of Georgia.

In the State of Georgia, the poultry industry contributes an annual \$21.5 billion to our State's economy. The industry also generates an annual \$2.1 billion in Federal tax revenue. The poultry industry is vital to not only the State of Georgia but also the country. That is why I am proud to recognize the University of Georgia for building a brand-new poultry science building on their campus.

This \$54.1 million facility will feature new classrooms, research labs, and learning labs. These new labs will enhance the traditional classroom experience by offering students opportunities to learn in a fieldwork setting. These facilities are vital for preparing students as they enter the poultry industry.

I know this new project will serve the students at the university and the people of Georgia's First District well.

GEORGIA AMONG LEED-CERTIFIED TOP 10

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the State of Georgia for being a top 10 finisher in the country last year for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design-certified green buildings.

The United States Green Building Council has been working hard to create a healthier, more sustainable, and resilient world through LEED, and its annual ranking is an opportunity to recognize everyone working toward that goal.

Buildings that are LEED certified create healthier spaces for people, use fewer resources, reduce carbon emissions, and improve efficiency while providing operational cost savings.

Georgia is a leader in green building and ranks sixth out of the top 10 States. 2022 saw growth in green building and sustainability, and I am proud that Georgia is at the forefront of building a healthier, more sustainable future.

I thank all the building professionals who helped our State achieve this ranking.

RECOGNIZING GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Georgia Ports Authority for handling nearly 6 million 20-foot containers in 2022. In 2022 alone, the Georgia Ports Authority had a 5 percent increase in container handling.

Collaborative effort across Georgia's supply chain ensured that cargo movement remained a top priority during a very challenging year.

The Port of Savannah achieved 4 of its top 5 months for container volume in 2022, with trade volumes peaking in August at an all-time high of 575,500 20-foot containers.

With the renovation of Berth 1 at Garden City Terminal, the 90-acre Garden City Terminal West expansion, and the transition of Ocean Terminal to an all-container facility, the Port of Savannah is set to increase annual capacity from 6 million to 7.5 million 20-foot containers.

I congratulate the GPA on this wonderful accomplishment.

HONORING RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEPUTY ISAAH CORDERO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a fallen hero, Riverside County Sheriff's Department Deputy Isaiah Cordero, who gave his life serving our community.

Every day, our law enforcement officers put on their uniforms, kiss their loved ones good-bye, and go to work not knowing if they will come home.

On December 29, 2022, Deputy Cordero put on his uniform, said good-bye to his loved ones, and went to work that day to protect and serve. That afternoon, he was tragically shot and killed in the line of duty during what should have been a routine traffic stop.

Now, a family mourns a loved one, our local law enforcement grieves a brother, and our community lost a guardian, protector, and friend.

Deputy Cordero's service began with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department as a correctional deputy on May

5, 2014. From the start, he was a hard-working, loyal colleague who led by example and wanted his partners to succeed.

As a correctional deputy, he worked on cases at the Larry D. Smith Correctional Facility and the Indio jail. Later, he was promoted to deputy sheriff after completing training with the 204th Basic Academy.

When he was transferred to the Jurupa Valley Station, Deputy Cordero achieved his goal to serve as a motor deputy. He had served in his dream job for only 3 months before his death at just 32 years old.

Our community will remember Deputy Cordero as a selfless public servant who gave his life for our safety. His mother, Rebecca; father, Gilbert; step-brother; loved ones; and friends will cherish his memory as a good man, devoted son, and loving uncle who brought a smile to everyone's face and as a kind soul who was quiet, polite, and humble, a ray of sunshine who loved motorcycles, cars, and punk rock.

Together, as a community, let us honor his legacy, and together, as a Nation, let us salute his courage, remember his sacrifice, and show our appreciation for his fellow brothers and sisters who wear the badge, continuing to protect and serve every day.

MEMORIALIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF
RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEPUTY DARNELL CALHOUN

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to memorialize the life and legacy of Riverside County Sheriff's Department Deputy Darnell Calhoun.

Our communities were shattered again by a tragic loss. On January 13, 2023, Deputy Calhoun was fatally shot while responding to a domestic violence incident in Lake Elsinore, California. He was just 30 years old.

He was born in Pomona and grew up in Murrieta, California, where he worked at his family's restaurant, Calhoun's Texas Family Barbeque.

In 2019, Deputy Calhoun began his career in law enforcement with the San Diego Police Department, where he served for 3 years. He then joined the Riverside County Sheriff's Department to be closer to his family.

You see, that is the thing about Deputy Calhoun. If there is one word to describe him, it is devoted: devoted to our community, devoted to his church, and, above all, devoted to his family.

He loved being a dad and raising his growing family with his wife, Vanessa. It is all he ever wanted.

For his children, Russell, Troy, and Malcolm, who is on the way; your children; my children; and everyone's children, Deputy Calhoun worked every day to make the world a better and safer place for us all.

A fixture in the community, Deputy Calhoun could often be found at Covenant Grace Church, serving brisket at his family's restaurant, or out with the people, leading the way on community policing.

He was an Eagles fan, a good man with a servant's heart who lived to

serve, and a courageous deputy who put his life on the line for our safety.

As the Calhoun family, fellow Riverside County Sheriff's Department officers, and our entire local law enforcement community carries the heavy burden of grief, anguish, and sorrow with Deputy Calhoun's passing, we must fulfill our solemn duty to honor and respect his service.

Today, residents of Riverside County mourn the tragic loss of two fallen officers in the sheriff's department within 15 days of each other.

Madam Speaker, I ask everyone present on the House floor today to join me in a moment of silence for Deputy Calhoun, Deputy Cordero, their families, and every fallen officer who has answered the call, put their lives on the line, and sacrificed themselves for our safety.

□ 1030

OUR BRIGHTEST DAYS ARE YET TO COME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss my plans for representing the Big First District in the 118th Congress.

As I have said on this House floor before, the Big First is the geographic center and the pilot light of America because there, the values that make America great are still alive and well: faith, family, freedom, and personal responsibility. We are farmers, ranchers, feed lot managers, businessowners, lenders, bankers, teachers, doctors, nurses, and parents.

My job is to serve and advocate for the people of the Big First, which is why I am excited and grateful to have been appointed to the House Agriculture, House Transportation and Infrastructure, and House Small Business Committees.

As a farm kid and a fifth-generation Kansan, I am honored to serve on the House Agriculture Committee again in the 118th Congress. Agriculture is the largest economic driver of the Big First. We rank number one in beef, wheat, and sorghum production. When I meet with farmers, ranchers, and agriculture producers, I hear about skyrocketing inflation and record-high input costs, labor shortages, government overreach, and the importance of reauthorizing the farm bill.

We need well-crafted farm and food policy in America to remain secure as a Nation, and the reauthorization of the farm bill is an enormous responsibility. My priorities for that legislation remain the same: to protect and strengthen crop insurance, promote trade, and stop regulatory overreach. I am committed to rolling up my sleeves and working for the men and women who feed, fuel, and clothe the world.

I am also honored to serve on the House Transportation and Infrastruc-

ture Committee. The Big First has 83,000 miles of road, seven commercial airports, and more than 4,000 miles of railroad tracks. We rely on this system to get to work, take our kids to school, and deliver food, fuel, and fiber to the rest of the world.

The people of the Big First deserve a voice on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and I am proud to be their spokesperson. A well-maintained, fiscally responsible infrastructure network supports economic activity, strengthens the supply chain, and helps America to remain a global power.

During this Congress, I will also serve on the House Small Business Committee. The Big First is home to more than 200,000 small businesses which employ 80 percent of all employees in the district.

Small businesses help drive the American economy and define the American dream. They add brick and mortar to the values that make our country unique, like freedom, self-determination, and the pursuit of happiness.

As a child, I learned about the responsibility, drive, and decisionmaking skills required to run a small business from watching my parents operate our preconditioning feedlot and family farm. I will continue to defend and support small businesses, their owners, employees, and the American values that small businesses embody.

I am honored to serve on these committees, and we have a lot of work to do. Over the next 2 years, we need to reauthorize the farm bill, develop new trade agreements with countries that will benefit American ag producers, and review the Commodity Futures Trading Commission Act. We need to reauthorize FAA and the Water Resources Development Act, protect producers from a burdensome and overreaching definition of waters of the United States, and ensure that our small and regional airports have the support they need. We also need to maintain the stepped-up basis, return money to small businesses from IRS watchdogs, and ensure that small businesses have a fair shot at government contracts.

I will be working on a wide variety of issues, but I am bringing the same approach to all of them. A Russell native, Senator Bob Dole once told me about the Kansas approach: honesty; hard work; respect for your roots; service; simplicity; genuine, thoughtful care for people; and just plain common sense.

I learned these Kansan conservative values as a kid in the Big First, they inspire my work today on all my committees, and they will always guide my steps here in Congress.

Ultimately, I believe that with prayer and hard work, our brightest days are yet to come.